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Martin Mador, Legislative Chair

Public Health Committee
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Testimony In Support Of
SB 1203 AAC Water Protection

I am Martin Mador, 130 Highland Ave., Hamden, CT 06518. I am the volunteer Legislative Chair for the Sierra Club-Connecticut Chapter. I am a director of Rivers Alliance and a past president and director of the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association. I hold a Masters of Environmental Management degree from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

The Sierra Club endorses SB 1203. We are particularly pleased that DPH will prepare lists of sources and potential sources of water that require protection. This information will be incorporated in the State Plan of Conservation and Development. This is a step in a very, very gradual move towards statewide water planning, and should help ensure the availability of high quality water by protecting the important sources.

However, the information on potential sources comes from water supply plans drawn up by water companies. The information in these plans is not available to the public without extensive redaction, so we are concerned that the list required by Sec. 2 of the bill will remain sequestered. We request that the bill require that this list be publically available. The testimony today of Margaret Miner of Rivers Alliance discusses this issue further.

The bill provides that DPH will no longer inspect the source of water for all bottled water sold in the state. We understand the difficulty in approving sources located outside the state. However, we believe that the public benefits significantly from labeling. So we suggest a requirement that all bottled water available for sale within Connecticut be labeled as to whether the source has been inspected by the state DPH, or an equivalent agency in another jurisdiction.

We endorse the new stipulation that a new source of water may not be approved if it would impinge on existing sources, or if a pollution threat would compromise water quality.

We endorse the imposition of fees in Sec. 12 applied to small water systems to enable the department to provide the services listed.